

Remarks

- 1) Applicant thanks the Examiner for his office action and hopes that this response will further the understanding of applicant's invention.
- 2) Applicant further thanks the Examiner for noticing the inadvertent errors of describing a text to speech in a system clearly directed to the conversion of text to speech. Applicant the specifications to correct this error. No new matter was introduced.
- 3) Claims 1-26 stand rejected. Applicant amended claims 6, 15, 16, and 18, and cancelled without prejudice claims 7-14, 17, 20, 24, and 25.
- 4) The claims as amended do indeed deal with converting text entered by the user into speech. Doing so allows the set-top generated message to better fit into the voice as well as the unified messaging arena. The set-top converts the text to either a speech file or to a speech signal.
- 5) Neither McKissick (EP 1458193) nor O'Neal (US 6,711,154) disclose or hints of a text to speech module operable on the set-top box to transform the text typed by the user into speech, prior to delivery to the messaging server. The Office considered Kolde et al. (US 1002/0175930) as providing the transformations limitation when it related to claim 17. Applicant respectfully disagrees.
- 6) Kolde relates to a system and method for assisting a speaker of a first language in operating a remote control device designed for a speaker of a second language. It does not disclose converting text typed by the user into speech and sending that speech to a communication server. On the contrary, Kolde specifically describes in paragraph [0081] the voice component 424 and the speech synthesis MODULE 425, as being used by the language assistant – a component designed for providing descriptions from a language module of the user's choosing – for outputting a spoken version of the description to the user. The undersigned failed to find anywhere in any of the cited references any teachings, or as much as a hint, to delivery of the voice output to the target messaging system which is positively claimed in claim 1. While the Kolde reference contains a speech synthesis module, it is clearly shown both in Fig. 4, and in paragraphs [0081] and [0082] that it performs a wholly different function than that disclosed and claimed in the present invention. Thus none of the cited references disclose or even hints about a text to

speech module executed on the set-top box and operable in combination with a voice delivery module **adapted to deliver the speech output to a target messaging system.**

- 7) Claim 15 was amended to correct error relating to speech to text v. text to speech keenly noted by the Examiner, and to incorporate the similar notion of conversion from text to speech occurring in the set-top box. The comments provided above relating to claim 1 similarly apply.
- 8) Claim 16 was similarly amended to incorporate the limitation of converting the text to speech in the set-top box.
- 9) Claim 26 was amended to more positively clarify that the text to speech module operates on the set-top box.
- 10) Applicant respectfully submits that the independent claims as amended overcome the art cited by the Office and are therefore allowable. All independent claims are also believed allowable in view of the amendments made to the independent claims.
- 11) Should the Examiner find any deficiency in this amendment or in the application, or should the Examiner believe for any reason, that a conversation with applicant's agent may further the allowance and issuance of this application, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact Shalom Wertsberger at telephone (207) 799-9733.
- 12) In light of the showing and all other reasons stated above, applicant submits that the claims as amended are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and issue of a notice of allowance on all pending claims is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted

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